

NEWS RELEASE

March 26, 2008

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ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE MEANS RELIEF TO LOCAL FAMILIES AND ECONOMY Congresswoman Laura Richardson, Councilmember Dee Andrews Encourage Residents to File Tax Return

Thousands of Long Beach residents may miss out on the Economic Stimulus Package's (ESP) rebate checks of up to \$600 for individuals, \$1,200 for married couples, and \$300 for each eligible child because they haven't filed a 2007 tax return.

"American families are struggling in the weakening economy. Family incomes and home prices are down as health care, energy, food and education costs, and mortgage foreclosures have climbed," said 37th Congressional District Congresswoman Laura Richardson. "Through the bipartisan effort of Congress and the White House, ESP will put hundreds of dollars into the hands of more than 130 million American families, seniors and disabled veterans."

Certain retirees, disabled vets and low-wage workers are eligible. People who have earned at least \$3,000 from wages or certain benefits from Social Security, Railroad Retirement and Veterans Affairs may also be eligible. Many of these individuals normally don't file a tax return. This year, they must file to receive the payments.

"Many eligible individuals live right here in the 6th District and we want to make sure they know that they have to file a tax return form with the IRS to get this money. We also want to make sure that they know there is a free service right here at the Center for Working Families to help them," said Long Beach's 6th District Councilmember Dee Andrews. "They'll not only get free help filing their income tax forms, they can get free assistance with banking, financial education, and work programs that can help them move up the economic ladder."

"I applaud the efforts of the Internal Revenue Service, Broad Spectrum, and the Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network to provide this critical resource to our constituents," said Congresswoman Richardson.

Broad Spectrum, CDC, is offering free tax return services at no cost at Pacific Gateways Workforce Investment Network's Center for Working Families, 1900 Atlantic Blvd. in Long Beach. There will also be other free services throughout LA County, including Watts, Carson and Lomita.

To learn about the ESP, people can call 1.800.829.1040 or visit www.irs.gov. To learn about services offered at the Center for Working Families, call 570.WORK or visit pacificgatewayworkforce.com

The Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network offers free services to both businesses and job seekers in LOMITA, LONG BEACH, SIGNAL HILL, TORRANCE, HARBOR CITY, HARBOR GATEWAY, SAN PEDRO, AND WILMINGTON. For more information about services call: 562.570.WORK, Toll Free 800.292.7200, TTY 562.570.4629 or visit www.pacificgatewayworkforce.com

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